

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

/138 W

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R 030921Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 833

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 10424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: ANTI-EMPEROR PRESSURE MOUNTS AS AFCC WARNS AGAINST
DEMONSTRATIONS

1. ON SUNDAY EMPEROR WAS REPORTEDLY SPAT AT AND CALLED
EPITHETS WHILE EN ROUTE TO CHURCH.
2. ON SEPT 2 WELL-ORGANIZED GROUPS, CHANTING "HAILE SELASSIE
OUT", "HAILE SELASSIE -- OLD MAN, THIEF", ETC., DEMONSTRATED IN
ADDIS STREETS AND OUTSIDE EMPEROR'S PALACE. PALACE DEMONSTRATORS
ESTIMATED AT 500.
3. AFTER DEMONSTRATION, AFCC ISSUED STATEMENT DESCRIBED BY
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ETHIOPIAN HERALD SEPT 3 AS STRONG WARNING
AGAINST "ANY FORM OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN COUNTRY." AFCC
SAID THAT WHILE APPRECIATED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ITS OBJECTIVES,
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, WITHOUT PRIOR AFCC CONSENT, WERE STILL
FORBIDDEN.

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4. COMMENT: AFCC WARNING APPARENTLY RESULT OF FEAR THAT DEMONSTRATORS MIGHT GO TOO FAR, OR ELICIT UNCONTROLLABLE INCIDENTS, RATHER THAN FROM ANY DESIRE TO SHORE UP EMPEROR. EXPECTATION OF SOME ACTION AGAINST HAILE SELASSIE (REPLACEMENT? DETENTION? EXILE?) IS RISING RAPIDLY. QUESTION REMAINS, HOWEVER, WHETHER AFCC, WHICH APPEARS TO BE CARRYING ADDIS OPINION WITH IT, IS GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF EMPEROR'S RURAL SUBJECTS IN ITS TREATMENT OR MONARCH AND CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT HIM PERSONALLY.
WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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